



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 10/037,273 | 01/04/2002 | Roy W. Bowen | P00588-US-0 (15859.0005) | 6830 |
| 7590 | 01/02/2004 | | EXAMINER | |
| | | | TSIDULKO, MARK | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2875 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,273

Applicant(s)

BOWEN, ROY W.

Examiner

Mark Tsidulko

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

The submission of amendment filed on 11/10/03 is acknowledged. At this point claims 1, 8, 9 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, new claims 13-18 have been added and the remaining claims left unchanged. Thus, claims 1, 3-18 are at issue in the instant application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Referring to Claim 1, it is not positive limitation "bulb *may not be passed*". Also limitation of the claims 1 and 9 "*the hollow tube dimensioned such that the light bulb may not be passed completely through the hollow tube*" is not cited in the specification and should be added.

Referring to Claim 17 it is not clear what Applicant intends by "*specific type of light source*".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **1, 3, 4, 5, 8-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto (US 2001/0001596) in view of Haraden et al. (US 4,219,870).

Referring to Claims **1, 8** Goto discloses (Fig.2) a vehicle lamp having:

- a molded (page 1, [0013]) component [10] including a base portion [12] having an opening, a lens portion [13] rigidly, integrally molded completely over the opening in the base portion and a light source holder [21] integrally molded to the base portion and adapted to hold the electrical connector so that when the light source is held by the connector, the light source extends into the hollow portion of the lens portion;
- an electrical connector [32] adapted to provide electrical connection to the light source;
- means [14, 15] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle body.

Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for hollow tube.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) a hollow tube [31] that includes a first and a second openings at the opposite ends of the tube. The hollow tube dimensioned such the light bulb can not be passed completely through the hollow tube.

Referring to Claim **3** Goto discloses (page 2, [0035]) the electrical connector having a twist-lock (bayonet) engagement with the light source holder.

Referring to Claim **4** Goto discloses (Fig. 2) means 14] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle (page 3, [0040]).

Referring to Claim 5 Goto discloses (Fig. 2) the retaining means [15] using at least one fastener for connection the base portion of the device to the vehicle body.

Referring to Claim 6 it is well known in the art that the thermoplastic material is most usable material in a molding process.

Referring to Claim 7 Goto discloses (Fig.2) a gasket compressed in between the flange portion and the peripheral edge portion of the bulb fitting hole, but does not discloses the gasket between the base portion and the vehicle body.

The gaskets are well known in the art and technology and are used to prevent the passage of moisture in the device.

Referring to Claims 9, 12 Goto discloses (Fig.2) a vehicle lamp having:

- a molded (page 1, [0013]) component [10] including a base portion [12] having an opening, a lens portion [13] rigidly, integrally molded completely over the opening in the base portion and a light source holder [21] integrally molded to the base portion and adapted to hold the electrical connector so that when the light source is held by the connector, the light source extends into the hollow portion of the lens portion;
- an electrical connector [32] adapted to provide electrical connection to the light source;
- means [14, 15] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle body.

Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for hollow tube.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) a hollow tube [31] that includes a first and a second openings at the opposite ends of the tube. The hollow tube dimensioned such the light bulb can not be passed completely through the hollow tube.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the hollow tube of Haraden et al. for the lamp of Goto for purpose of obtaining reliable and stable connection between the bulb and electrical connector.

Referring to Claims 10, 11 Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for releasable insertion of the bulb and connector. Releasable bulbs and connectors are well known in the art and widely used in the vehicle headlamps. Using of this type of bulbs and connectors allows to simplify exchange of these parts.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the releasable bulbs and connectors for the lamp of Goto in order to simplify exchange of these parts.

Referring to Claims 13, 18 Goto discloses (Fig.2) a vehicle lamp having:

- a molded (page 1, [0013]) component [10] including a base portion [12] having an opening, a lens portion [13] rigidly, integrally molded completely over the opening in the base portion and a light source holder [21] integrally molded to the base portion and adapted to hold the electrical connector so that when the light source is held by the connector, the light source extends into the hollow portion of the lens portion;

- an electrical connector [32] adapted to provide electrical connection to the light source;
- means [14, 15] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle body.

Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for hollow tube.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) a hollow tube [31] that includes a first and a second openings at the opposite ends of the tube. The hollow tube dimensioned such the light bulb can not be passed completely through the hollow tube.

Referring to Claim **14** Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for an electrical connector positioned in the hollow tube such the light source inserted into the anterior open end of the tube can be inserted into the connector.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) an electrical connector [51] positioned in the hollow tube such the light source inserted into the anterior open end of the tube can be inserted into the connector.

Referring to Claim **15** Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for the hollow tube has a posterior open end opposite the anterior open end.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) the hollow tube [31] has a posterior open end opposite the anterior open end.

Referring to Claim **16** Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for electrical connector is releasably positioned in the posterior open end of the hollow body.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.1) that the electrical connector [51] is releasably positioned in the posterior open end of the hollow body.

Referring to Claim 17, as best understood, Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for diameter of the opening into the cavity is larger than the diameter of the light source.

Haraden et al. discloses (Fig.2) that the diameter of the opening into the cavity is larger than the diameter of the light source.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the hollow tube of Haraden et al. for the lamp of Goto for purpose of obtaining reliable and stable connection between the bulb and electrical connector provide the releasable bulbs and connectors for the lamp of Goto, as shown by Haraden et al. in order to simplify exchange the part.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/10/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Ohichi and Goto do not disclose that the hollow tube has a diameter smaller than the diameter of the light bulb. In response, since it is a new limitation added to the claim, a new reference of Haraden et al. disclose a lighting device wherein the hollow tube has a diameter smaller than the diameter of the light bulb.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tsidulko whose telephone number is (703)308-1326. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

Application/Control Number: 10/037,273

Page 8

Art Unit: 2875

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (703) 305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703)872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

M.T.
December 19, 2003


ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER